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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

26 JULY 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Camp Pendleton – 16 Marines Arrested on Human Smuggling and Drug Charges

(U) Sixteen US Marines were arrested yesterday on human smuggling and drug allegations at a base in Southern California, military officials said. The Marines were arrested at Camp Pendleton based on information gained from a previous human smuggling investigation, the Marine Corps said in a statement yesterday. At least eight other Marines have also been questioned about their involvement in alleged drug offenses. None of the arrested or detained Marines were a part of the Southwest Border Support mission, according to the military's statement.

SOURCE: 25 July 2019, [NBC News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Agents Seize Nearly \$300K in Meth at Hidalgo International Bridge

(U) Hidalgo – Authorities say a man in a compact car tried to smuggle 14.46 pounds meth at the border. The discovery occurred at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge after a CBP officer referred a 58-year-old male Mexican citizen driving a white 2016 Ford Fiesta for a secondary examination. The driver was arrested and turned over to Homeland Security Investigations custody.

SOURCE: 25 July 2019, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arizona – Sinaloa Cartel Members Arrested After Months-Long Investigation

(U) Mesa – A federal and local drug task force has arrested three members of the Sinaloa Cartel living in the Valley. During the six month investigation, agents took more than \$200,000 worth of drugs from the operation and intercepted more than \$75,000 in cash. Starting in January, a DEA task force coordinated an investigation with Scottsdale police to target members of the cartel operating out of Mesa. The organization imports cocaine, meth, heroin, and fentanyl-laced pills from Mexico and exports illegal drug money back across the border, according to court documents.

SOURCE: 25 July 2019, [ABC 15](#)

(U) Georgia – Georgia Man Pleads Guilty to Plot to Use Drone to Drop Marijuana in Prison

(U) Pelham – Eric Lee Brown, 35, pleaded guilty yesterday to using a drone to try and drop a bag of marijuana into a prison, federal prosecutors said. It's being called the first known criminal prosecution of a case under a drone registration law. He pleaded guilty to a single count of "operating an aircraft eligible for registration knowing that the aircraft is not registered to facilitate a controlled substance offense," the US Attorney's Office of the Middle District of Georgia said in a statement.

SOURCE: 26 July 2019, [NBC News](#)

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(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Chile – Explosion at Police Station Leaves Several Injured: President Calls It Act of Terror**

(U) Santiago – Five police officers were injured in an explosion at the Huechuraba community police station in Santiago, Chile. President Piñera said in a statement that the explosion was caused by a "package with a bomb." Piñera condemned the explosion as a "terrorist attack" that was "destined to cause terror." "This is undoubtedly a terrorist act because sending a package with a bomb to a police station without a doubt is what it is intended to cause terror. And therefore, the Interior Ministry has been invoking the Anti-Terror Law," he said.

SOURCE: 25 July 2019, [CNN Espanol](#)

(U) Nigeria – Islamic State claims Aid Workers' Kidnapped in Northeast Nigeria

(U) Abuja – Islamic State's West Africa branch claimed responsibility for kidnapping six aid workers in northeast Nigeria yesterday. International aid agency Action Against Hunger said that a staff member and five others kidnapped in Nigeria last week had appeared in a video released on the evening of 24 July that showed they were "apparently in a good condition of health." Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA), which split from Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram in 2016, claimed responsibility for the kidnap in a tweet published by the SITE monitoring group. The group has carried out a number of attacks in the northeast over the last few months, including on military bases. It killed a kidnapped aid worker nine months ago.

SOURCE: 25 July 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) South Africa – Ransomware Hits Johannesburg Electricity Supply

(U) Johannesburg – A major electricity supplier in South Africa's largest city has suffered a ransomware attack, leaving some residents without power. City Power revealed yesterday that its IT systems had been shut down. "It has encrypted all our databases, applications and network," the company tweeted, referring to the virus. City Power's website remains offline and residents have reported problems via social media with their electricity supplies. The ransomware attack initially affected customers' ability to buy pre-paid electricity and also hampered the firm's efforts to respond to localized blackouts. A spokesman for City Power told the BBC that more than a quarter of a million people might have been affected.

SOURCE: 26 July 2019, [BBC](#)

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